

Cheri Wolfe, Social Worker, Region 4

Cheri began work with DSHS in 1970 and came to the Children's Administration in 1974. She is currently a social worker in child welfare services in Region 4. Cheri was nominated by several co-workers and supervisors with a supporting letter of endorsement from the Honorable George Mattson of King County Superior Court.

Here are some excerpts from those nominations:

"Cheri and Rosie were friends and Rosie knew Cheri could always be counted on to handle difficult case situations in a manner that Rosie, herself, would have approved. Cheri is well-liked and respected. Her work is a reflection of who she is. She treats everyone with respect, empathizes with parents, but never to the extent that it clouds her ability to do what's necessary to protect a child.

Cheri spends enormous amounts of time with children who are being placed in adoptive homes. She does everything she can to ensure that the transition is smooth for the adoptive parents, current caregivers and the child. Cheri is highly respected by staff at the Attorney General's Office, Judges, CASAs and attorneys for parents. She works well with relatives, foster parents as well as natural parents.

In addition to her excellent work, Cheri is a wonderful employee. She is completely reliable and responsible. She reaches out to new employees, and is a friend to all. Cheri has had many opportunities over her career to advance in the agency. She has steadfastly refused since her total commitment was to working directly with children and their families. She is a worker who has trained many new staff on an informal basis, yet as busy as she is, Cheri always takes the time, when a co-worker has a question.

Cheri is an expert permanency planner. She has a commitment to families but also has a gentle way of helping families understand when return home is not a safe option for a child. In Cheri's mind, all children deserve a permanent home and she has worked tirelessly over her career to obtain homes for her child clients.

Cheri's thoroughness is legendary. She is an excellent communicator, both verbally and in writing. Her court reports are always timely and deal with all aspects of the case. She sees the children on her caseload regularly and has a supportive relationship with their caregivers. The children on her caseload see Cheri as an important part of their lives and she is invited to their recitals, plays, graduations and soccer games.

Whenever there was a difficult case in Region 4, Rosie's first choice of handling the case was Cheri. When Cheri handled these cases, she calmed the situation and focused on the best needs of the child. These cases take many extra hours and Cheri has always been willing to give the time needed to help the children she serves.

Cheri is a very kind and polite person. She doesn't get frustrated with people and is patient when training staff or communicating with clients. She is a joy to have in an office."

Please join me in congratulating Cheri Wolfe as the recipient of the 2004 Rosie Oreskovich award.